

***Juncus hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus*** F.J. Hermann  
dwarf rush  
Juncaceae (Rush Family)

**Status:** State Threatened

**Rank:** G5T5S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969): A diminutive annual with all basal leaves. The sheaths are 1/8 in. (3 to 4 mm) long. The blades are linear, often have bristle like hairs and are usually about half as long as the peduncles. The single flowers are mostly 2-merous on naked peduncles, which are 1/4 to 3/4 in. (1 to 2 cm) tall. There are usually 2 involucral bracts, the upper one about 1/32 in. (1 mm) long and the lower one much smaller or sometimes even lacking. There are 2 perianth segments that are 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm) long, erect or slightly spreading, narrowly lanceolate, with tips that are abruptly acute but not at all subulate. There are 2 or 3 stamens and the anthers are about 1/64 in. (1/2 mm) long. The capsule is usually broadly ellipsoid and indistinctly reticulate to quite smooth.

**Identification Tips:** *Juncus hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus* is a distinct taxon in the Pacific Northwest. It is most closely related to *Juncus kelloggii*. These two taxa can be distinguished by their bracts, seeds, capsule, and number of flowers per peduncle. The bracts of *J. hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus* are very unequal with the lower one much reduced or even lacking, its seeds are very indistinctly network patterned to smooth, its capsule is thin-walled and longer than the narrowly lanceolate perianth segments, and there is one flower on each peduncle. The bracts of *J. kelloggii* are nearly equal and are 1/32 to 1/16 in. (1 to 1 1/2 mm) long, its seeds are rather prominently reticulate or ridged, its capsule rarely exceeds the perianth, and its flowers are often more than one per peduncle.

**Phenology:** *Juncus hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus* has been found from May to June in Washington.

**Range:** This species is known in Washington from Klickitat and Spokane counties and in Oregon from Columbia County south through the Willamette Valley to Josephine and Lake counties. It is also widespread and largely montane in California where it occurs south to San Bernardino County and east to northeast Nevada. *J. hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus* also occurs in Idaho and Utah.

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Known distribution of  
*Juncus hemiendytus* var.  
*hemiendytus*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Bruce Newhouse



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**Habitat:** *Juncus hemiendytus* var. *hemiendytus* prefers mud flats, the edge of vernal pools, and moist to wet meadows. In Washington this taxon has been found in vernal pools and near a vernal meadow at an elevation of 2300 to 2430 ft (701 to 741 m). Associated species include common spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), lesser navarettia (*Navarettia leucocephala* ssp. *minima*), popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys* sp.), slender phlox (*Phlox gracilis*), and annual hairgrass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*).

**Ecology:** Small seeds are produced and possibly transported in mud adhering to the feet and wings of waterfowl.

**State Status Comments:** This taxon is known from one historical occurrence in Klickitat County and two recent occurrences in Spokane County. These populations occur on private land.

**Inventory Needs:** Mud flats, vernal pools, and moist to wet meadows in Klickitat and Spokane counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Definite threats have not been identified for this species. However, the small range of this taxon in Washington and the small number of known occurrences are major concerns. Disturbance to the immediate habitat would likely have negative impacts.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 914 pp.



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